GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

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Youth Exchange Programmes
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with various foreign countries on organizing Youth Exchange Programmes recently;
(b) If so, the names of countries with which MoU has been signed along with the aims and objectives behind the move;

(c) the details of terms and conditions of the MoUs along with benefit that India will get out of these MoUs alongwith the time by which the MoUs will be implemented; and

(d) the other steps taken / being taken by the Government to promote the exchange of ideas and values amongst youths of different countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) and (b) The Department of Youth Affairs endeavours to create an international perspective among the Indian youth in collaboration with other countries. In this context, exchange of Youth Delegations with other countries is taken up on reciprocal basis for promoting exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst youth of different countries and also to promote peace and understanding. The terms and conditions for exchange of these Youth delegations are decided by way of Memorandum of Understanding signed between the participating countries.

With the above objective, the MoUs with the following countries have been signed by the Department of Youth Affairs for exchange of Youth delegations: (i) Bahrain, (ii) Kuwait, (iii) Nepal, (iv) South Korea, (v) Sri Lanka, (vi) Vietnam and (vii) BRICS Nations (Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa). Further, two MOUs signed through Department of Sports also provide exchange of Youth delegations with the foreign countries viz. (i) Mauritius and (ii) Maldives. The Cultural Exchange Programmes signed with Israel and Jordan by Department of Culture also provide for exchange of Youth delegations.

(c) The broad terms and conditions in the above MoUs are that the partnering countries cooperate for exchange of Youth and representative of youth organizations. The sending side bears the expenses for international air travel and travel insurance and the receiving side is responsible for board, lodging and local transportation. All the activities of the MoU are subject to the budgetary availability of both sides.

These Exchange Programmes provide an opportunity to the Indian Youth to gain the first hand experience of the culture, customs, tradition and ethos of the country visited. It also enables the Indian Youth to establish direct one-to-one contact with the Youth of the other country and make friendship with them. This also helps in development of better understanding and deeper ties between the youths of both the countries. The Indian Youth also learn best practices being implemented in different sectors, viz. education, sports, industry and other technological advancements and overall progress of the country visited. The Indian Youth after return to India can implement the best practices evidenced by them in the foreign soil and pass on the knowledge they have gained to

others as well.

At present, all the MoUs are in force and are at different stages of implementation.

(d) Apart from these MoUs, the following activities are being organized by the Department of Youth Affairs for exchange of ideas and values amongst youths of different countries:
(i) An exchange of 100-member Youth Delegations with China is taking place on regular basis every year since 2006, on the strength of Joint Statement signed during the visit of Chinese President in 2006 (with exception that during 2011, 500-member delegations were exchanged). In the Joint Statement issued on 19.09.2014 on the occasion of visit of Chinese President, it has been decided to exchange 200-member youth delegations from 2015 to 2019.
(ii) On the request received from the Indian High Commissioner, Bangladesh, a 100-member youth delegation from Bangladesh has been visiting India every year since 2012. This is a joint programme of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs.
(iii) The Department of Youth Affairs is part of a Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) being run by the Commonwealth to develop the potential, creativity and skills of the Youths as productive and dynamic members of their societies; to participate fully at every level of decision making development, both individually and collectively. The first Asia Regional Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting was organized at New Delhi from 27th to 30th July 2015 where Youth, officers and dignitaries from 8 countries (including India) participated and exchanged their ideas.
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